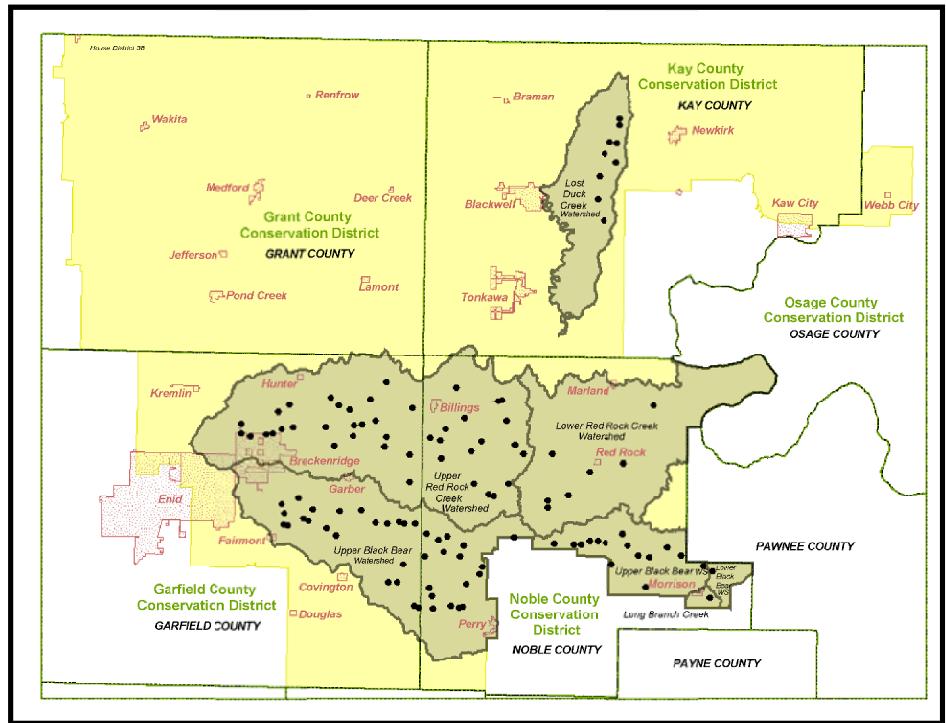


Watershed Dams In House District 38

Oklahoma has 129 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted watershed projects in 64 counties. Over 2,100 watershed dams have been built in the state with financial and technical assistance from NRCS authorized through Public Law 78-534, Flood Control Act of 1944 (Washita River Watershed) and Public Law 83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

Watershed projects address a myriad of natural resource issues such as flooding, soil erosion, water quality, animal waste management, irrigation water management, water supply, wetland development or enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. Many of these watershed projects also include conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, gully control, and pasture and rangeland plantings.



Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is a major responsibility for project sponsors (local units of governments, usually conservation districts, conservancy districts, or city or county governments).

Operation and maintenance of watershed dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes clearing trees from dams and spillway, repairing soil erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the inlet towers cleared of debris.

Operation and Maintenance Needs

It will take \$4.4 million dollars to meet the operation and maintenance needs of all the 2,105 watershed dams in the state for the fiscal years 2008-2012. There are 115 dams in House District 38.

Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams with 65 percent federal cost-share. Local project sponsors provide 35 percent of the rehabilitation costs.

Oklahoma currently has ten completed rehabilitation projects and 29 more in various stages of planning, design or construction. Oklahoma has 250 watershed dams that already exceed their 50-year design life span. In five years that number will be 807 and in ten years will be 1,364

There are 46 watershed dams in House District 38 that are 40-49 years old and 38 that are 30-39 years old.

Some dams will need rehabilitation to remain safe and protect the people that live or work downstream. It is estimated that \$30 million will be needed to rehabilitate the highest priority of these dams during the next five years.

Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)							
Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 38	*Monetary Benefits	Farms / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Long Branch Creek	11	1	\$69,976	73	12	197	31,430
Lost Duck Creek	9	9	\$377,564	69	12	249	40,396
Lower Black Bear	19	2	\$1,685,953	280	10	374	77,233
Lower Red Rock	7	7	\$85,084	46	2	124	18,308
Upper Black Bear	72	54	\$881,216	475	38	1,910	496,767
Upper Red Rock	42	42	\$427,858	186	17	1,317	217,935
Total	160	115	\$3,527,651	1,129	91	4,171	8,820,069

*Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages and may include other benefits such as soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Contacts for House District 38

February 2008

Conservation Districts are a primary sponsor of most watershed projects in Oklahoma. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that administers the watershed program and provides technical and financial assistance to the local project sponsors.

Listed below are conservation districts in your district and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program and other conservation programs.

Grant County Conservation District

grantccd@conservation.ok.gov

121 E. Kretchmar
Medford, OK 73759-2418
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580/395-2340 (NRCS)
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Osage County Conservation District

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918/287-3755 (NRCS)
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Natural Resources Conservation

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